STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS ROBIN CARLISE

Re-opening of Chapman’s Peak Drive postponed

07 August 2009

The Minister of Transport and Public Works Robin Carlisle has been informed by Entilini that they are unable to fulfill their commitment to re-open Chapman’s Peak Drive this month.

Minister Carlisle is disappointed and exasperated by the postponement. “Entilini promised me, personally and my department, on numerous occasions in the past that they were well on track to meet the August deadline. In turn, I promised Capetonians that the road would open on time. I will wear the responsibility for this delay but let me be clear – Chapman’s Peak will reopen for this summer.

Entilini’s reasons for the postponement are inter alia that the quantum of construction works have more than doubled since the outset of the contract; poor weather conditions, the delayed arrival of construction material and the recent construction strike all factored in to the postponement of the planned re-opening.

The late notification of the delay is totally unacceptable and I will instruct Entilini to keep me personally abreast with developments on a weekly basis.

I will scrutinize Entilini’s project plan for the final completion of the drive – line by line - and hold them to account. Whilst I understand that there may be elements beyond anyone’s control, I will not tolerate tardiness. I will only announce a completion date when it is viable and credible – I’m not going to keep the public hanging on like this.

Ends

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Minister to release weekly progress updates on Chapman's Peak Drive

20 August 2009

The Minister of Transport and Public Works Robin Carlisle last Friday met with Entilini to interrogate the delayed re-opening of Chapman’s Peak Drive. Minister Carlisle expressed his and the public’s frustration and disappointment during the frank and robust meeting.

After a thorough examination of Entilini’s reporting and reasons for the delay, the talks turned to the project plan for the remaining critical works and, in particular, the following five project milestones:

• Gabions
• Low Energy Barriers
• Catch Fences
• Gully 15
• Slip Failure

The Minister directed Entilini to provide him with a weekly report on the progress of the project starting from Monday 24 August. The reports, to be released no later than noon every Monday, on the Department of Transport and Public Works’ webpage at www.capegateway.co.za, will detail Entilini’s progress against the agreed five milestones in their project plan for the final completion of the drive.

Minister Carlisle is cautiously confident. “This new reporting system gives me instant feedback on the work program and allows me to keep my finger on the pulse of Entilini’s progress and efforts to finish the outstanding works” said the Minister.

The reports will provide early warning systems if factors like the weather or the delivery of imported materials which might impact on, or impede progress. If one or more milestones cannot be reached during a particular week, Entilini will provide the Minister with reasons for the failure and a revised milestone schedule to accompany the weekly report.

“I am determined that Chapman’s Peak drive be opened as quickly as is humanly possible. My direct oversight of the weekly project plan is an indication of the personal importance I place on the completion of this project.”

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